



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * December 2003*

FOOD WASTE TO RESOURCE SYMPOSIUM

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

SPO and DEP will roll out a major effort to divert and compost food waste from large scale institutional and commercial sources.

On **March 18th, 2004**, the State Planning Office and the Maine DEP, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management, in cooperation with the Dept. of Agriculture, will host a one day symposium at Bowdoin College in Brunswick.



The event will bring together large scale food waste producers, composters, farm owners, and technical and marketing experts from Maine and around the northeast region. The symposium will kick start a year long state effort that will include regional workshops and the development and distribution of an interactive resource guide.

This program marks the first time the state has dedicated staff and resources to encourage large scale food waste producers to consider composting as a management tool.

SPO estimates that as much as 180,000 tons of food waste, 10% of the state's 1.8 million tons of MSW, is currently being landfilled or incinerated. Food waste represents that last untapped waste territory in Maine's drive to achieve 50% recycling goal.



To Register visit
www.recyclemaine.com/food
or call Rhonda Cartlidge at
(207) 287-8934.

Maine Recycles Week 2003

Maine Recycles Week 2003 Preparation Under Way

The MRW Steering Committee had a formidable task of selecting the best posters from the over 800 submitted and awarded the 7 schools that had the best MRW programs and activities.

Next year's MRW poster will sport a friendly recycling greeting from a giraffe: "Reach for Recycling" the giraffe says. The winning poster was drawn by Jennifer, a fourth grader at Weatherbee School in Hampden. The next three posters that garnered awards were from: Mishana, grade 5, St. George School; Jamie, a junior at Foxcroft Academy; and Rachel, grade 3, 14th Street School, Bangor. A \$250 award was given to each school that had a poster recognized in the top four posters. *(Continued on Page 2)*

Household hazardous waste cost share program gets underway

To date, the State Planning Office has received requests for reimbursement to the State's municipal household hazardous waste (HHW) collection cost share program (P&S law 30) totaling nearly \$50,000.00 dollars from eight regional HHW collection events.

These events offered HHW disposal opportunities to residents of over 50 Maine communities. That figure should more than double before the end of the year as the Program anticipates several additional requests for reimbursement, Reaching an estimated \$125,000.00 for this fall's collection events.

Four out of five of Maine's largest communities; Bangor, Lewiston, Auburn, South Portland, and Brunswick, held events this fall.

Information about the grant program can be found at **www.recyclemaine.com/grants**, or by contacting Sam Morris at 207-287-8054, or **sam.morris@maine.gov**.

'Pick of the Litter' Fashion Show

The evening of November 11th was filled with rain and showers over the Samosort Resort in Rockport; however spirits could not be dampened in the formal ballroom, which served as the sight for the 'Pick of the Litter' Fashion Show. Approximately 100 people and McCoy the dog gathered for the event. The clothes were not fashioned from trash but were all picked from the racks of the transfer station's swap shop. Styles and fabrics that had not seen daylight for some time – even decades, in some cases.

The fashion show, which was the brainchild of Carole Lambert of Rockport, was held to benefit the Community School in Rockport. Carole, who is the manager of the Swap Shop at the Mid Coast Recycling facility which serves Camden, Rockport, Hope and Lincolnville, referred to the event as a way of thanking the communities by celebrating Maine Recycles Week 2003 and the appearance of a new building to house the Swap Shop at the facility. Ms. Lambert had been instrumental in writing and pursuing grants and funding to pay for the improvements.

A cash bar and buffet of tasty cheeses, pates, fruit, and hors d'oeuvres shared one end of the room, with artwork created from trash by commissioned local artists for a silent auction. The other end of the room had been separated by one of the room's movable walls to allow for a



Granville Ames, a Mid Coast Solid Waste attendant, had the finale in this Christmas fun inspired body wreath.

dressing area for the 30 local models to prepare to strut their stuff. The "stuff" was actually made up of articles of discarded clothing that had been squirreled away by the Swap Shop Manager in the hopes of one day finding just such a moment as when the creation and accessories hit the stage and was presented at the end of the runway.

A local string quartet, the Nuremberga Strings, provided atmosphere music before the actual show where the cd player took over. Master of Ceremonies, Terry Bregy, dressed in his finest, first quieted the audience, then urged them to their seats, and finally kept them in stitches (all puns intended) for the rest of the evening!

The Maine Recycles Week 2004 Calendar has been sent for printing!

It features the winning Artwork from MRW 2003. Calendars will be mailed to schools and municipalities. If you need additional copies for your local campaign, please order them by calling 207-287-8053 or online at www.recyclemaine.com



2004 Maine Recycles Week Calendar!

Maine Recycles Week 2003 *(continued from page 1)*

Congratulations to the four schools that will each receive a \$500 award:

- Windsor Elementary School
- Standish/Steep Falls Elementary Schools
- Saint George Elementary School
- Fairmount Middle School, Bangor

Schools in Bryant Pond, Falmouth, and Dresden will receive classroom presentations from the Chewonki Foundation for honorable mention of their efforts.

Awards are being given this year thanks to the generosity of our MRW 2003 sponsors: AVCOG, Boise Office Solutions, Maine Turnpike Authority, Hood, Waste Management of Maine, Maine Energy, Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, Maine Resource Recovery Association, Domtar, Portland Press Herald, Commercial Paving and Recycling, Aggregate Recycling Corp., L.L. Bean, Bath Iron Works, Northern Maine Development Commission, the Colony Hotel, and the State Planning Office.

Holiday Waste Reduction & Recycling Tips



The holiday season, with all of its associated buying, wrapping and celebrating, substantially increases the amount of waste that we generate. There are, however, many opportunities for the consumer to reduce, reuse, and recycle the remnants of holiday cheer. Listed below are some tips for reducing household waste during the holiday season:

Give Your Christmas Tree a Second Chance

Buy an evergreen in a pot or with a rootball wrapped in burlap to transplant after New Year's. (Dig a hole before the ground freezes.)



Recycle Christmas Trees

Some communities recycle Christmas trees by chipping and mulching them for compost or landscaping materials. Trees must be free of tinsel, decorations, and other foreign materials. In those communities that don't offer Christmas tree recycling, residents can still recycle tree trunks for firewood or kindling and use the branches as mulch under acid-loving bushes & shrubs.

Donate Replaced Items to Charity

New gifts will often replace appliances and clothes that still have a useful life. Collect these items and donate them to Goodwill, Salvation Army, local churches, daycare centers or charity groups. See if your town has a "bargain barn" or "swap shop."

Recycle Cardboard Boxes

The holiday season creates a tremendous amount of cardboard



waste. Be sure to separate corrugated cardboard, bundle it, and take it to your local recycling center. Check first to see if your local area accepts cardboard and how it should be prepared.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Gift Wrap

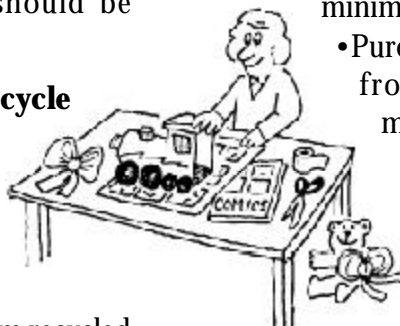
- Just add bows to holiday shopping bags or gift boxes instead of wrapping;
- Buy gift wrap made from recycled paper. Avoid wrapping paper with foil highlights as it cannot be recycled;
- Only use the amount of wrap that you need. Loop string around gift boxes, then lay it out on paper to determine how much to cut;
- Wrap gifts in brown paper bags or newspaper - use the cartoon section for brighter colors.
- Wrap gifts in festive holiday fabric, dish towels, or bandanas, which can simply be washed and reused.
- Give gifts in baskets, tins or jars;
- Save bows, ribbons, and paper to reuse next year.
- Shred wrapping paper to use as filler or instead of tissue.

Tips for Holiday Shopping

- When shopping, use reusable canvas bags to carry purchases. Refuse a bag for small purchases. Ask for the box that the product

came in or get a clothing box for the item instead of collecting both a box and a bag;

- Choose products that are minimally packaged;
- Purchase items made from recycled materials.



Tips for Giving

Be prudent and practical as well as thoughtful and creative.

Purchase gifts that are long-lasting or that can be reused and later recycled. Avoid "gag gifts" as they quickly become trash. Secondhand or antique shops are great places to do holiday shopping. Consider giving gift certificates or tickets for services or special events rather than purchasing an item that may not be used or needed.

Tips for Holiday Parties

- Use cloth napkins, silverware, glass drinking cups and ceramic coffee mugs, and reusable plates rather than disposable plastic, Styrofoam, or paper at holiday parties;
- Rent party furnishings rather than buying things that you will only use once a year;
- Reuse plastic margarine tubs or yogurt containers to store holiday leftovers.

If you would like to distribute these Holiday Waste Reduction & Recycling Tips directly to your residents, simply insert your community information here and photocopy on colorful paper. You can then distribute the sheets at local businesses and the Town Office, or you could even do a mailing to residents. You can also reach the community by submitting these tips, along with your local information, to the local newspaper and/or radio station. Be sure to include details on Christmas tree recycling opportunities, collection schedules, whether you accept wrapping paper for recycling, etc.

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Please contact Rhonda Cartlidge at 207-287-8934 or **rhonda.cartlidge@maine.gov** if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

Mark Your Calendar!



MRRA Winter Workshop

February 2nd (Snow Date: Feb. 3rd)

Ramada Inn, Bangor, ME

For info contact: John Albertini 207-942-6772

Food Waste Symposium

March 18th, 2004 - Brunswick, ME

For info visit www.recyclemaine.com/food
or call Rhonda Cartlidge at 207-287-8934

Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

April 5th & 6th

Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME

For info contact: John Albertini 207-942-6772